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1547 Route 131
Springfield VT 05156-9681
7 May 99

Commissioner Jane E. Henney
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Parklawn Bldg. Rm 14-71
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville MD 20857

Dear Commissioner Henney:

Irradiation of food to kill certain pathogens may turn out to be beneficial, or maybe not. At this stage of the game what is really important is that consumers have the power to decide for themselves whether they want to ingest irradiated food. The only way consumers can have this power is if all irradiated food is clearly identified as such, including items which contain just a small irradiated component, e.g. spices.

Therefore I urge you to require very clear marking in a prominent place on the package, in sufficiently large writing, and with sufficient contrast over the background (unlike present ingredient lists), indicating that the contents or a portion thereof were irradiated. Don't let the food or nuclear industries talk you into playing big brother; let the people themselves decide, correctly or not, what is good for them.

And, by all means, don't let irradiation take the place of good housekeeping and cleanliness practices by the food producers.

Sincerely,

Roald Cann

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